

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing container blanks (2) from a material web (3), comprising:

a plurality of tools (5) supported by a rotary tool holder (4), each tool comprises a base element which is fixedly mounted on the tool holder and an engaging element which is pivotable relative to the base element,

wherein base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder,

said rotary tool holder ~~which on rotation is on rotation being~~ arranged to move each tool (5) along

a working path (WP) along which each tool (5) is engageable with the material web (3) for joining of opposite wall portions of the material web (3) along connecting portions (1) defining said container blanks, and

a return path (RP) along which each tool (5) is disengageable from the material web (3),

each tool (5) being arranged to be moved together with the material web (3) when the tool (5) is moved along said working path (WP), and

said tool holder (4) acting as a deflecting means for the material web (3) when this moves together with the respective tools (5) along said working path (WP).

2. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool (5) is operable between a closed position and an open position, the tool (5) being movable to said closed position to provide said engagement with the material web (3).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 3 1, in which at least one of the base element (6) and the engaging element (7) of each tool (5) supports a rib (12), which is arranged to engage the material web (3) in the closed position of the tool (5).

5. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4, in which said rib (12) of each tool (5) has an extent that corresponds to the extent of the connecting portion (11) of a container blank (2).

6. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, in which said rib (12) is supported by an arrangement involving springs (38), which when moving the tool (5) to said closed position are arranged for a given compression.

7. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which each tool (5) is arranged to provide said joining by heat sealing.

8. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control means (18) which is arranged to engage said tool (5) with, and disengage the same from, the material web (3).

9. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which the control means (18) comprises a link mechanism (20) for each of the tools (5) and a stationary cam structure (19), each tool (5) being connected to the cam structure (19) by said link mechanism (20) and the cam structure (16) being arranged, during rotation of the tool holder (4), to control each tool (5) to be closed and opened, respectively.

10. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 8, in which each link mechanism (20) comprises an articulated link arm (25) which is arranged in an over-centred position.

11. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 9 or 10 when referring back to claim 6, in which each link mechanism (20) comprises a roll (23) which is held in a cam groove (24) of the cam structure (19), a sensor being arranged in the cam groove (24) for sensing the force by which the roll (23) abuts against a bearing surface of the cam groove (24).

12. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder (4) is rotatably mounted on one side.

13. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed claim 1, further comprising a punching station (10), which is arranged downstream of the tool holder (4) and arranged to punch container blanks (5) along said connecting portions (11).

14. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 13, in which said punching station (10) is arranged for such punching that a succession of container blanks (2) are connected to each other to form a continuous web (17) of container blanks (2).

15. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the tool holder (4) in operation is arranged for continuous rotation.

16. (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a registering mechanism (13) positioned upstream of the tool holder (4) and adapted to sense the tension in the material web (3) and to adjust said tension according to a predetermined value.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing container blanks (2) from a material web (3) by joining opposite wall portions of the material web (3) along connecting portions (11) defining said container blanks, comprising

deflecting said material web (3) over a tool holder (4),

rotating the tool holder (4) to move tools (5) supported by the same along a working path (WP), and

by continued rotation of the tool holder (4), moving the tools (5) along a return path (RP) to the beginning of said working path (WP),

each tool, for providing said joining, being engaged with the material web (5) by pivoting an engaging element towards a base element for clamping the material web therebetween, the

base elements of the tools form a substantially continuous section enclosing the rotary tool holder, and being moved together with said material web (3) during the movement of the tool (5) along said working path-(WP).

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the material web (3) is folded to a web folded longitudinally in the form of a W.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which said tool holder (4) is rotated continuously to provide continuous production of container blanks (2).

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, in which the tool holder (4) is rotated in an indexing motion.